

REMARKS

Claims 24-37 and 40-43 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 24-37 and 40-41 are withdrawn from consideration.

The amendment to claims 42 and 43 find support in Examples 4 and 9 of the present specification.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (U.S. 6,191,184) in view of Nishioka (U.S. 6,653,769) and Sato (U.S. 5,294,516).

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The amendments to claims 42 and 43 distinguish the subject matter of the present invention from Suzuki. This is because Suzuki does not disclose or suggest the benzyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid/allyl acrylate terpolymer. Nishioka and Sato do not make up for the deficiencies of Suzuki which the Examiner relies upon as a primary reference. Accordingly, the present invention is patentable over Suzuki in view of Nishioka and Sato.

Withdrawn method claim 24 has been similarly amended to include all of the limitations of product claim 43. If claim 43 is found to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the non-elected method claims pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(b).

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 24-37 and 40-43 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 10/695,906

Attorney Docket No. Q78005

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Respectfully submitted,

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